

Fall
2006



State Senator Liz Brater

The Lansing Report



Governor Brings Google, Other Projects to Washtenaw County

As we all know, Michigan faces a challenging economic climate. Currency manipulation in China and Japan and tax incentives for off-shoring and outsourcing are harming Michigan manufacturing, and Governor Granholm has repeatedly sought help from the federal government to provide a level playing field for our automakers. Meanwhile, she is working to diversify our economy. We have invested \$2 billion in the 21st Century Jobs Fund to develop high technology, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing as the basis of our new economy.

Thousands of new jobs have come to Washtenaw County this past year as a result of this careful investment. A few highlights were:

- Google will locate a new hub in Ann Arbor, bringing 1,000 jobs directly and many more indirectly.

- In Superior Township, Hyundai America Technical Center established a technology center bringing 400 new jobs. Future expansion of a design center will add 600 jobs for a total of 1,000 jobs within the next ten years.
- An expansion of Assay Designs in Ann Arbor will bring 86 new jobs.
- Advanced Photonix relocated its headquarters and manufacturing lines to Michigan from California, bringing 105 new jobs.
- Pixel Velocity, Inc. also recently expanded in Ann Arbor, adding 68 jobs to the tally.
- In Dexter, a brownfield redevelopment single business tax credit helped Monument Park rebuild their facility

The creation of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti SmartZone will continue to foster these types of projects.

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Know Your Voting Rights

Senator Brater has introduced numerous bills to make it easier for citizens to vote. As of now, the bills have not been given a hearing. In the meantime, it is important to know your voting rights. To register to vote in Michigan, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by election day
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying

Michigan residents must register 30 days before the election date in order to participate. This means you must register by October 10, 2006 in order to vote in the fall election. You can register in person or obtain a

mail-in application from your county, city, or township clerk's office, or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office. In addition, certain agencies such as the Department of Human Services, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth offer voter registration services to their clients. Military recruitment centers also provide voter registration services.

You can obtain an online voter registration application at http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633_8716---,00.html. However, if you register online and not in person, the Secretary of State does not allow you to use an absentee ballot the first time you vote.

Did You Know?

- You have the right to take printed materials into the polls for your personal use as long as they are not in quantity and as long as you do not distribute them or use them for promotional purposes. However, you CANNOT wear or display any button, T-shirt, placard, or other items promoting a specific candidate or ballot issue.
- In Michigan the right to vote is automatically restored upon lawful release from incarceration. However, you must register to vote again.
- It is not legal for anyone to offer election materials within 100 feet of a polling place. It is not legal for anyone to ask you for identification or ask you questions while you are waiting in line to vote. If this occurs, report it to an election official inside the polling place.

Want to Know More?



Mailing funds are limited and I would like to keep in touch with you. Please take a minute to e-mail me at senlbrater@senate.michigan.gov and send me your e-mail address so I can send you legislative updates. If you don't have e-mail, please call my toll-free number to receive updates by mail. Thank you!

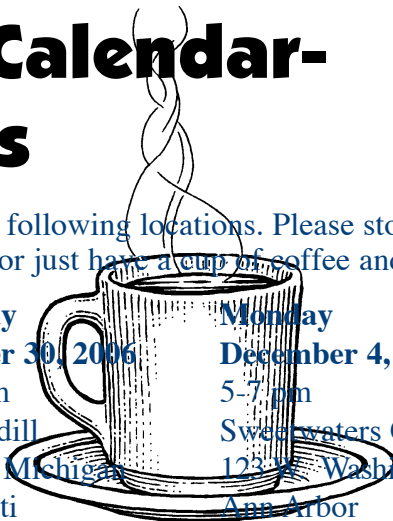
Mark Your Calendar-Office Hours

Office Hours will be held at the following locations. Please stop by to share a concern, ask a question or just have a cup of coffee and chat.

Monday
October 23, 2006
8-10 am
Zou Zou's
101 N. Main
Chelsea

Monday
October 30, 2006
8-10 am
Bombadill
217 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti

Monday
December 4, 2006
5-7 pm
Sweetwaters Cafe
123 W. Washington St.
Ann Arbor



Voting by Absentee Ballot

You can vote by absentee ballot if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Cannot vote without help
- Are age 60 or older
- Plan to be away from your city or township on election day
- Are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Will be working as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you are registered
- Can't go to the polls because of religious beliefs.

To vote by absentee ballot, send an absentee ballot application

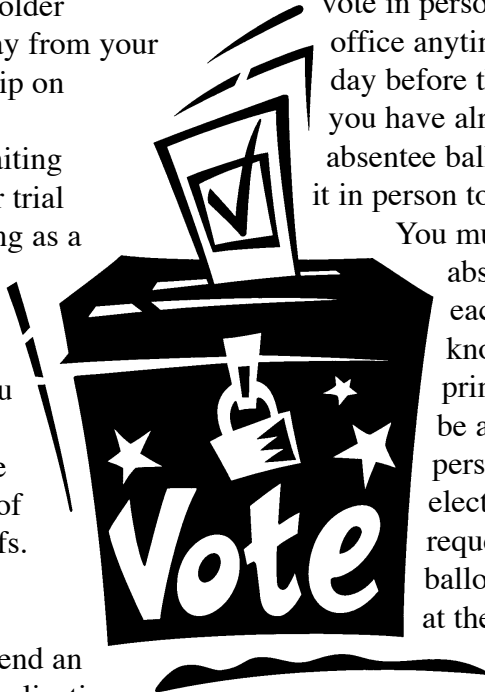
or signed request to your city or township clerk stating your reason for requesting an absentee ballot. This request must be received by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election. You may still choose to vote in person at the clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. the day before the election. Or, if you have already obtained an absentee ballot, you can deliver it in person to the clerk's office.

You must request a new absentee ballot for each election. If you know before the primary that you won't be able to vote in person in the general election, you can request an absentee ballot for both elections at the same time.

If you must be away on election day due to sickness, accident, family death, or illness, you may be able to obtain an emergency absentee ballot. Emergency ballots must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on election day.

Attention first-time voters:

If you need to vote by absentee ballot the first time you vote or the first time you vote at a new address, you must register in person at your city or township clerk's office or a Secretary of State office. In-person registration is the only way first-time voters can receive an absentee ballot. This is of special importance to college students who may be away from home during the November election.



Contact Your Local Clerk to Register

Ann Arbor
(734) 994-2725

Chelsea
(734) 475-1771

Ypsilanti
(734) 483-1100

Village of Barton Hills
(734) 665-5574

Village of Dexter
(734) 426-8303

Ann Arbor Township
(734) 663-3418

August Township
(734) 461-6117

Dexter Township
(734) 426-2841

Freedom Township
(734) 428-0822

Lima Township
(734) 475-2202

Lyndon Township
(734) 475-2401

Northfield Township
(734) 449-2880

Salem Township
(248) 349-1690

Scio Township
(734) 665-2123

Sharon Township
(734) 428-7002

Superior Township
(734) 482-6099

Sylvan Township
(734) 475-8890

Webster Township
(734) 426-5103

Ypsilanti Township
(734) 484-4700





State Senator **Liz Brater**

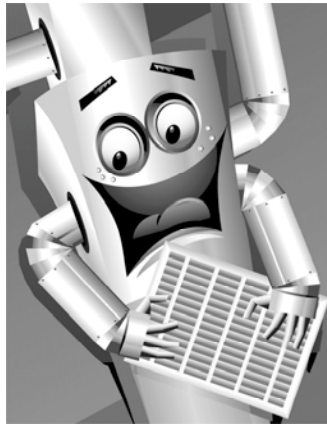
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Brater Proposal Will Help Reduce Global Warming

State Senator Liz Brater in June introduced legislation that will help reduce energy consumption and save consumers money by lowering energy use. The bill would establish state appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards for a number of household appliances. Some of those items include DVD players, residential furnaces and boilers, walk-in refrigerators,



portable electric spas and residential pool pumps. By adopting new standards, Michigan would bring its regulations in line with eight other states who have already adopted energy efficiency requirements for common products. This bill augments a federal law that establishes energy efficiency standards for household appliances.

Governor Signs Minimum Wage Increase into Law

This spring Governor Granholm signed into law legislation that will raise the state minimum wage to \$6.95 by October of this year. In July 2007, it will rise to \$7.15 and in July of 2008 to \$7.40. According to the U.S.

Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, raising the minimum wage by just \$2.00 per hour would directly benefit at least 464,000 Michigan workers, or nearly 1 in 6 hourly workers statewide.

Say No to Phosphorus

Phosphorus runoff from our lawns and gardens is a major source of nutrients that are promoting algae bloom and invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil in our lakes and streams. Several local communities have passed ordinances to limit phosphorus use. Sen. Brater is working with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Agriculture to extend these limitations statewide.

Most soil in Michigan does not need additional phosphorus. You can find phosphorus-free fertilizer at many local stores. You can also help by choosing phosphorus-free dishwasher detergent. Senate Bill 840, which has passed the Senate, would maintain the authority of local governments to control fertilizer use, giving communities the ability to regulate phosphorus.